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MALENKOV AND STALIN'S DEATH

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It is possible that the advent to power in the United States of the Repub-  
lican Party and the Eisenhower Administration, and the active efforts, connected  
with this, to organize the armed forces of the US and the democratic countries  
have made the younger Kremlin rulers (Malenkov, Beriya, Bulganin, et al.) decide  
to attack the West before it has time to prepare itself for defense. Malenkov  
and Beriya know that the USSR, with China and the Satellites, has at present a  
military superiority over the US and the West which in armed conflict might give  
the Kremlin a decisive victory (enable it to seize Europe and Asia).

Stalin, cautious by nature, could scarcely agree with this point of view;  
he avoided the risk of a major war, for, as a true Marxist-Leninist, he was  
convinced that the existing world situation would sooner or later lead to an  
economic crisis in the capitalistic world, especially in the US, and finally to  
a triumph of Communism throughout the world. Stalin believed in the inevitability  
of the crisis and of the downfall of capitalism. He just developed Lenin's  
principles -- worked out methods to foster and intensify the crisis of capitalism  
without risking a major war with it. Stalin respected and feared US economic  
power.

Undoubtedly, Stalin knew of the inclination among the young members of the  
Politburo to take advantage of the present unprepared state of the West and to  
start a war before the organization of a European army and the restoration of  
the military power of West Germany and Japan. The young members of the Politburo  
do not have the same faith in the principles of Marxism-Leninism as did Stalin  
and the Lenin generation of Bolsheviks. Malenkov, Beriya, Bulganin, and the  
others believe that capitalism has within itself the power to change its forms

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and that the postwar period has shown that there is vitality in the West, that the expected economic crisis has not developed and will not develop. The young members of the Politburo have not made their careers in party ideological work and have not grown up amid the theoretical disputes of the Marxists or the disputes between Stalin and the opposition, composed of Bukharin, Trotskiy, Zinov'yev, etc. They are calculating men, in a practical sense; men of action. They prefer direct action, and not Stalin's policy of slowly building up superiority, of gradual advance and seizure piece by piece of the capitalist world.

Feeling his age and the approach of death, Stalin decided to take precautionary measures against the hotheads in the Politburo. The 19th Party Congress was called in October, 1952; at this Stalin dissolved the Politburo consisting of 12 men and replaced it with the Presidium of 36 men. By this reorganization of the leadership at the 19th Party Congress Stalin decreased the importance of each member of the old Politburo and at the same time lessened the danger of an extreme concentration of power in Malenkov's hands. Moreover, Stalin introduced military figures into the Presidium. The presence of leading generals of the army in the party ruling circles would make Malenkov and Beriya be more cautious about risking a major war.

At the end of the Party Congress the ailing Stalin appeared before the delegates with a speech in which he said that conflict and war between the various capitalistic countries was inevitable (underscored as in original), and that therefore the Soviet Union should follow a policy of biding its time, while intensifying the conflicts between these countries, exhausting them, and playing on the conflicts between them, i.e., should do as Stalin did with Germany and Japan and France, Britain and America in the last war.

Thus, the 19th Party Congress was used by Stalin against the possible strengthening of the individual power of Malenkov, and against the policy of the young members of the Politburo of beginning a war with the West, taking advantage of the latter's military unpreparedness.

But just as soon as Stalin died the world saw Malenkov do away with all the provisions of the 19th Party Congress, with all of Stalin's measures. The Presidium of the KPSU (KPSS?), with its many members, was abolished, and the Politburo of ten men, obedient to Malenkov, was restored. The government was reorganized into a military cabinet, just as at the time of the last war. Marshal Zhukov, pushed aside and given lower positions by Stalin, was restored to a position of army leadership. Marshal Skolovsky was recently named chief of staff; even when he was in Germany he did not conceal his opinion that the West was militarily weaker than the USSR.

Thus the death of Stalin was of advantage to Malenkov. It was necessary to enable him to seize power and to carry out his policy of striking the West now, when it is just beginning to arm itself.

Malenkov was a pupil of Stalin in the period when the latter was seizing power, sweeping from his path all those who stood in his way: Trotskiy, Bukharin, Zinov'yev, Rykov, Kamenev, Tukhachevskiy, and others. Malenkov was chief of Stalin's secretariat in that period and engaged in preparing the elimination of the opposition. Hence he has rich experience in this respect.

Trotsky wrote that Stalin, if he did not actually poison Lenin, at least helped to bring on his death, for the ailing Lenin began to fear Stalin, "the lover of highly spiced dishes," and before his death Lenin was taking steps to remove Stalin from the post of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the party. History may have repeated itself: Stalin, fearing Malenkov, had taken steps to curb him, and the latter hastened Stalin's death, since he did not want to lose the opportunity of this year, when the US and the West were still

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unprepared. The arrest of the Kremlin doctors now appears in a new light: they had been treating Stalin for a long time; their arrest by Malenkov frightened Stalin, and the new doctors, on the orders of Malenkov and Beriya, hastened Stalin's death. This, of course, is only a guess.

[The rest of] what has been set forth above is also a guess. Our propaganda must develop it and use it extensively for broadcasts to the other side of the Iron Curtain (by the radio of the American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia, Radio Free Europe, and other channels). Such propaganda should present Malenkov and Beriya as murderers, as politicians staking the lives and interests of their peoples on the card of war.

Our propaganda must use Stalin's death against Malenkov -- by means of the dead dictator it must strike at the living one. It is certain that the army and the people will believe such an explanation of the death of Stalin, all the more since Malenkov is known as the author and executor of the frightful Yezhov purge, and Beriya as the head of the hated NKVD-MGB-MVD. Also, everyone knows that as late as February Stalin received two Indian personalities and the latter said that he was in good health and spirits; this must be emphasized.

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